

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1300  
By Cochran

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sinking Creek Baptist Church, the oldest church in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the churches of this State and nation have been, since the foundation of this country, the strong foundation of our just and compassionate society, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those communities of faith for the continuity and stability they offer their members; and

WHEREAS, Sinking Creek Baptist Church, the oldest church in Tennessee, is one such church, and should be recognized; and

WHEREAS, established in 1772 by Matthew Talbot, Sinking Creek Baptist Church still stands proudly as a pillar of the Sinking Creek community, one of the oldest communities in Carter County; and

WHEREAS, threatened by the actions of local Native Americans, the congregation disbanded in 1776; it was reorganized the following year; and

WHEREAS, the original log building housing the church, which had pews made of flat logs, was constructed in 1783; and

WHEREAS, after a vehicle collided with the old church in 1965, the log building was faithfully reconstructed and still stands today; and

WHEREAS, the Sinking Creek congregation has a long and colorful history, one which includes joining in the organization of the Holston Association in 1786, resolving to disallow usage of the church building by anyone other than Baptists in 1789, meeting for the first time with the Holston Association in 1807, banning adherents of the Campbell Movement from membership in 1826, resolving to oppose the sale of intoxicating drinks in 1853, joining movement to organize Watauga Association in 1869, and reorganizing the church in 1929; and

WHEREAS, since the construction of the original log church, Sinking Creek Baptist has grown, evolving to satiate the needs of the congregation; these changes include a remodeling in 1924, the addition of Sunday School rooms in the basement in 1940, the construction of a new sanctuary and the enshrining of the old sanctuary in 1962, the construction of the Family Life Center dedicated to Reece Harris in 1961, the erection of a steeple in 1999, and the construction by inmates of an outdoor pavilion in 2003; and

WHEREAS, through the many years of its existence, Sinking Creek Baptist Church has stood as an exemplar of faith, strength, and belief, offering guidance, comfort, and shelter to those in need, should be justly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and honor Sinking Creek Baptist Church, the oldest church in Tennessee, for its 232-year history of service to God and offer our sincerest hopes for the congregation's continued existence for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.